



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**CHANNING D. PHILLIPS  
Acting United States Attorney**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **SW District Man Sentenced to Prison for Killing Committed While on Parole**

WASHINGTON - A 32 year-old Southwest District of Columbia man, Charles E. McDuffie, has been sentenced for an involuntary manslaughter he committed while on parole when he hit a 98-pound man in May 2008 in Southeast Washington, D.C., Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. McDuffie pled guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and Possession of Marijuana in June 2009 before the Honorable Geoffrey M. Alprin of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Today, McDuffie, of the 200 block of K Street, SW, Washington, D.C., was sentenced by the Honorable Geoffrey M. Alprin to a total of five (5) years of incarceration, with five (5) years of supervised release once he has served his sentence. The parties had agreed ahead of time to the sentence, and after hearing from the parties and the decedent's family members, the Court accepted the plea and imposed the sentence. The defendant may face additional incarceration when he appears before the Parole Board. At the time of the homicide, the defendant was on parole for a 1994 conviction of Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence.

According to the government's proffer and to information discussed at the sentencing, the homicide occurred on Sunday, May 25, 2008, near the 2500 block of Naylor Road, SE, Washington, D.C., at about 8:45 p.m. The defendant, Charles E. McDuffie, was walking along with his father when they encountered the decedent, James Woodland. Mr. Woodland was a friend of, and worked with, the father at an apartment complex. At a certain point, upset with profanity that Mr. Woodland was directing towards his father, the defendant suddenly hit Mr. Woodland in the face, knocking him to the ground. The defendant then left the area with his father.

Mr. Woodland was eventually revived by others and helped back to his home. During the next several days he slept a lot and ate very little food, and he also moved in an unsteady fashion and complained of pain. Medical attention was not obtained. On Tuesday, May 27, 2008, Mr. Woodland's roommate left him at the apartment in the morning and returned in the afternoon. Discovering Mr. Woodland unconscious and unresponsive, the roommate called 911. Mr. Woodland was pronounced dead.

A subsequent autopsy ruled that the cause of his death was Blunt Impact Head Trauma, and the manner of death a homicide. The autopsy noted that the decedent was 5' 6" tall and weighed only 98 pounds, and appeared compatible with the stated age of 47 years. The government notes that the injuries observed during the autopsy appeared consistent with the decedent sharply hitting his head on the ground after he was struck and fell.

In pleading guilty, the defendant acknowledged that his actions caused the death of Mr. Woodland and were not in lawful self-defense of himself or anyone else. The defendant also pled guilty to possessing marijuana that was found on him when he was arrested in June 2009, in the 800 block of Southern Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., for the homicide.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives George Blackwell, Lee Littlejohn, Alfred Austin-Braxton, Kenneth Goldberg, and Brian Devine. He also commended the work of Victim-Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker and Paralegal Marian Russell. Finally, Mr. Phillips thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Gripkey, who indicted the case and handled the sentencing.

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